

Serial No. 10/724,777

Amendment dated May 10, 2005

In Reply of Office Action date January 10, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-18 (cancelled).

19 (currently amended). A **negative pressure storage tank including a manhole, comprising:**

- a)** **the** manhole having an openable and closable outwardly opening manhole cover, ~~comprising:~~
- b)** ~~a)~~ a manway defining the manhole, the manway being ~~configured for~~ provided on a **the** negative pressure storage tank;
- c)** ~~b)~~ the outwardly opening manhole cover being hingedly attached to the manway;
- d)** ~~e)~~ the outwardly opening manhole cover including a hinge frame assembly;
- e)** ~~f)~~ a seal provided on the negative pressure

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storage tank manway;

f) ~~e)~~ a pin provided for securing the outwardly opening manhole cover to the manway;

g) ~~f)~~ a locking and sealing assembly being provided adjacent to the outwardly opening manhole cover; and

h) ~~g)~~ the locking assembly including a locking and sealing element for engaging the outwardly opening manhole cover with the seal for locking and sealing the negative pressure storage tank manway on the negative pressure storage tank.

20(currently amended). A negative pressure storage tank including a manhole ~~having a cover~~ as in claim 19, wherein:

a) the locking and sealing element includes a threaded locking post, the threaded locking post being moveable relative to the hinge frame assembly and the cover for locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

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21(currently amended). A negative pressure storage tank
including a manhole ~~having a cover~~ as in claim 19, wherein:

a) a groove is provided in the seal, the groove being configured for receiving a rim of the manhole cover.

22(currently amended). A negative pressure storage tank
including a manhole ~~having a cover~~ as in claim 21, wherein:

a) the pin is provided between the hinge frame assembly and the manway, and the pin secures the hinge frame assembly to the manway.

23-26(cancelled).

27(currently amended). A negative pressure storage tank

including a manhole as in claim 19, wherein:

a) a mounting flange is provided adjacent the manhole cover.

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28(currently amended). A negative pressure storage tank

including a manhole as in claim 27, wherein:

- a) a bolting flange is provided adjacent the manway.

29(currently amended). A negative pressure storage tank

including a manhole as in claim 28, wherein:

- a) a gasket is mounted between the bolting flange and the mounting flange.

30(currently amended). A negative pressure storage tank

including a manhole as in claim 28, wherein:

- a) the mounting flange is bolted to the bolting flange.

31-41(cancelled).

42(currently amended). A negative pressure storage tank

including a manhole as in claim 19, wherein:

- a) the locking assembly includes a threaded locking

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post, and the threaded locking post is movable relative to the hinge frame assembly and the openable and closable cover for locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

43(currently amended). A negative pressure storage tank including a manhole as in claim 42, wherein:

a) the locking assembly includes a locking post base adjacent the threaded locking post, and the locking post base is fixed relative to the cover.